City of Royalton

Royalton City Hall
320-584-5900

PO Box 276 12 N Birch Street Royalton MN 56373

September/October
Volume 21 Issue 5

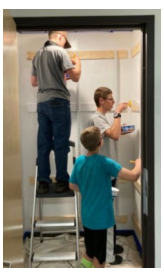
A moment to remember.

On July 31, 2021, friends and relatives celebrated Platte River Day in Royalton, Minnesota. At 11:00a.m. the parade kicked off the day with the marching band and floats and waving kids looking for candy. But there was something different, a parade entry that seemed to make everyone quiet down to a whisper. We all have our differences in opinions but this one float proved we are the same. On August 20, 2001, Krystal Quade was a single 25 year old woman, wanted to increase her income. She was able to team up with her coworker, Kevin Vierkamp, a single parent dad, he convinced Krystal, who had a lot of experience from her previous jobs to buy a repossessed semi tractor trailer. With Krystal's financing background and Kevin's truck knowledge, he would become her first driver. But on September 11, 2001, the transportation industry stood still, Krystal and Kevin wanted to help others who too needed to survive. So with that single truck they started, "Rock on Trucks". By the end of 2001, Krystal had 7 independent truck drivers, by 2002, 25 drivers and by 2003, 50 drivers. As

Continued Page 3

Adding color to the Library walls this summer. By Terri Deal-Hanson

The library was the recipient to some wonderful projects this summer, thanks to Boy Scout Nolan Gerads, who chose the library for his Eagle Scout project. Nolan and his crew created a sweet mural in the children's area, provided a beautiful new tiered display table, and added new shelving and lighting to our closet storage area! Nolan also has a new lounge chair with a tablet arm, for library laptop users. Nolan and his family and scouts spent many hours working on these projects, and we are so appreciative of the beautiful results. Here are some fun photos of the crew in action. Thank you Nolan!



Continued Page 6

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency	*911*
Royalton Police Dept	*320-584-5900*
Morrison County Sherriff (Non emergency)	*320-632-9233*
Royalton City Hall	*320-584-5900*
Midco	*1-800-888-1300*
Falls Net	*320-616-2166*
MN Power	*1-800-228-4966*
Xcel Energy	*1-800-894-4999*

Dates to Remember

City Council Meetings

- *September 7*
- *October 5*

Planning and Zoning Meetings

- *September 15*
- *October 20*

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Royalton
City on the Platte River

From the Mayor

Happy Labor Day!

Platte River Day was a huge success! The weather was perfect and people were happy to get together. Thanks to the Royalton Lions for all their hard work!

The Cedar/Driftwood Street project is progressing. New water main is being installed and storm sewer will be in the ground in the coming weeks. We hope for warm weather as fall approaches so construction can be completed this year.

The City applied for a Small Cities Development Grant to help fund the road project. Residents were asked to fill out and return the salary survey as part of our application. We need more people to return their surveys! If we do not get the grant, we will need to have an assessment hearing when the construction project is done.

In August the Council met with a financial advisor to develop a Comprehensive Financial Plan for the city. The plan includes current and future projects, utility rates and debt service. The plan will be updated yearly so the Council can use it as a budgeting tool and future Councils can use it as a guide.

The traffic light and the resulting traffic jams have been a source of concern for residents and people traveling through our city. The traffic light may be located in our city, but it does not belong to the city. All we do is pay the electric bill! The light belongs to the MN Department of Transportation. They set the timing for the lights according to traffic flow.

School is starting soon so please watch for children!

SCOUT ME IN

Cub Scouts - 1st-5th grade

Join us at our first meeting on September 21st, 630pm at the Royalton Elementary School cafeteria! Scouts can start in any grade. For questions or additional information contact Cubmaster Jeff Nyreen at jeffnyreen@gmail.com or 218-371-0229.

Boy Scouts - 6th-12th grade

Join us for our first meeting of the school year September 26th. For questions or additional information contact Scoutmaster Rian Hofstad at rrhofmg@gmail.com or 320-224-3386

Girl Scouts®

Royalton Girl Scouts

Kindergarten through 12th grade.

Please join us on Monday, September 20, 2021 at 5:30p.m. At the Royalton Elementary School cafeteria. Scouts can start in any grade. Questions regarding sign up contact Amanda Billig at 320-420-8350 or amandajomeyer@hotmail.com

To align with Girl Scout safety measures, all attendees, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to wear face coverings throughout the event.

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long as you wanted to work, Kevin was going to find you work, and he did. Krystal and Kevin created a great working relationship. As time went by, they wanted to give back to the community. Kevin had a heart for the military. So many of the trucks were wrapped with military identities. This fit in well with their theme trucks. In 2015, Kevin noticed a serious decline in patriotism. He had seen a decorated memorial truck and wanted to create one that would bring the message home that ***FREEDOM ISN'T FREE***, it comes with a price. He created, Rock on Trucks, "Operation Respect" exhibit Veteran Memorial tribute truck, like the one we saw on that July day. They wanted to have a memorial to help us remember just what families have had to give up to make others safe. That was the first in a fleet of exhibit trucks, today it includes the firefighter and law enforcement tributes which includes names of all those who have fallen in Minnesota who have been killed in the line of duty. And the most recent Vietnam Veterans Wall with all the names of all the soldiers killed in action. The Tomb of the Unknown soldier located at Arlington Virginia, was replicated on the back of this flatbed truck, reminding us that "Freedom isn't Free". For most veterans they get to come home to their families, and for others, they return home but are never the same. And then there are those loved ones who come home draped with the American Flag over their casket and those who never return home. This country has seen many battles and wars that we must never forget. We must never forget what our neighbor has had to sacrifice. We must never forget what the soldiers have had to endure while away from home. Through and through, we must **NEVER** forget.

Rock on Trucks travels across the state to many different towns and participates in special events to bring awareness the importance of our military, fire fighters and law enforcement. They give back to those in need in our communities and bring smiles to little kids with their vibrant colors and brilliant artwork.

Rock on Trucks is located in Waite Park, Minnesota.

A **BIG** Thanks to all their drivers whose semis bring smiles to many faces and awareness to those that need to be reminded.

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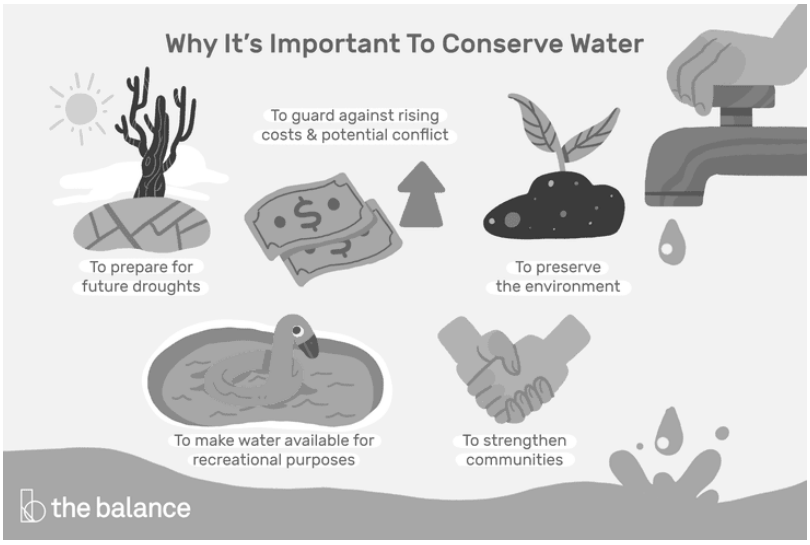
Water Conservation before and during a drought! It will happen again.

In the past week, residents were able to experience what it is like to drive through a rain storm and head for cover when the lightning strikes and the hail begins to pound the ground. After experiencing a drought compared to 1988, we seem to forget when we are in this phase we **ALL** need to work together to survive. We should not use more water than what we need, because we are all tapped into the same aquifer. It maybe healthy, but given enough time and enough users, it too could be dried up. To start preparing for the next drought, even though it could be years away, if we make small changes here and there, it won't be a big shock when it comes.


Why It's Important To Conserve Water
To guard against rising costs & potential conflict
To prepare for future droughts
To preserve the environment
To make water available for recreational purposes
To strengthen communities
the balance

Before a Drought:

Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it. For example, use it to water your indoor plants or garden.

- Fix dripping faucets by replacing washers. One drop per second wastes 2,700 gallons of water a year. Average person uses 1500 gallons a month with indoor use only.
- Check all plumbing for leaks and have any leaks repaired by a plumber.
- Retrofit all household faucets by installing aerators with flow restrictors.
- Install an instant hot water heater on your sink.
- Insulate your water pipes to reduce heat loss and prevent them from breaking.
- Install a water-softening system only when the minerals in the water would damage your pipes. Turn the softener off while on vacation.
- Choose appliances that are more energy and water efficient.

During a Drought:

- Take short showers instead of baths. Turn on the water only to get wet and lather and then again to rinse off.
- Avoid letting the water run while brushing your teeth, washing your face or shaving.
- Place a bucket in the shower to catch excess water for watering plants.
- Operate automatic dishwashers only when they are fully loaded. Use the "light wash" feature to use less water.

Many more suggestions at ready.gov/drought
We may not experience a drought like this again for a while, but teach your children and grandchildren

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DETERRA

Deterra is available at Royalton City Hall during normal business hours. It was given to the Royalton Police Department to give to those who need to get rid of those left over prescriptions from doctor offices. Once you pick up your pouch, follow the steps on the side of the packaging. After a short time shaking the sealed pouch, just throw it away in your regular trash.

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Library News By Terri Deal-Hansen

The leaves will soon be falling and hopefully the temperature will too! I'm ready for some crisp fall air after this toasty summer. We will be celebrating fall with our **'Music in the Park'** event at Memorial Park on **Sunday, September 19th**! Join us at the park for a free concert by musicians **Bill and Kate Isles**, who will be performing in the gazebo. There will also be free face painting for the kids, and complimentary ice cream, popcorn, and bottled water supplied by the Royalton Friends of the Library group. **Music starts at 3:00—**see you there!

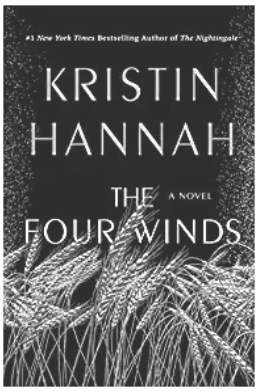
The Summer Reading Program wrapped up in August, and we had great participation this year with **110 readers!** Kids read through the summer, turned in their reading coupons, and were entered into drawings for fun prizes. A great BIG "thank you!" to the Royalton Friends of the Library who provided all of the grand prizes this year. The kids also had fun finding the missing color crayon, and identifying the MN landmarks in the library this summer.

We had our first in-library craft event and story times in June and July. It has been such fun to have kids and families back to events in person. One of our teen events was making friendship bracelets in July. Here is a picture some of the cute crafters showing off their bracelets and anklets with volunteer Kathy Nelson who taught the class—so fun!

We have a nice variety of fall programs coming up for all ages. Back by popular demand,

- Rose Borman will be at the library with a **pallet painting** class on **Wednesday, October 27th from 5:00-7:00**. Rose is a fabulous teacher, and she provides everything you need to take home a lovely piece of art. All classes at the library are free, but registration is required at the library or online.
- We have a fun fall story time on **Thursday, September 16th from 4:30-5:15**,
- and a **train story time** on **Thursday, October 14th from 4:30-5:15**. Please sign up at the library so that we can plan for enough crafts and snacks for everyone.
- Magic Bob will be at the library on **Thursday, October 28th from 4:00-5:00** with a fun-filled magical **Halloween Show**! Bring the kids in their Halloween costumes for a Halloween themed magic and comedy routine.

Of course, there will be treats for all trick-or-treaters!



What is Royalton Reading?

Kristin Hannah's "The Four Winds," has been a popular read at the library—here is Friend of the Library, Andrea Lauer's review of the book…

Kristin Hanna's book, "The Four Winds," draws so many parallels between the dust bowl years to the present drought we are experiencing. Hannah's main character, Elsa, faces the dilemma of staying in Texas with her husband's family and the land she loves where the daily dust storms impact the health of the children, or moving with her two children to California not knowing how she will survive. It's heartbreaking to read how extreme poverty impacted the decisions Elsa makes and yet, she is a warrior! Being a migrant worker living in makeshift camps, following the crops, and fighting for workers' rights are just part of Elsa's story. Hannah has crafted a compelling story and I recommend others read the book.

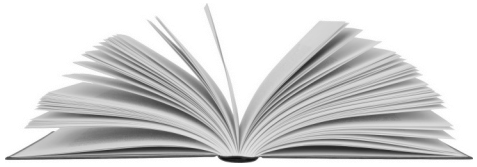
I agree—thank you Andrea!

Happy Fall Everyone—see you at the library!

Great River Regional Library Hours

Monday 2:00 pm –6:00 pm
Tuesday CLOSED
Wednesday 2:00 pm- 8:00pm
Thursday 10:00 am –1:00 pm
2:00 pm- 6:00 pm
Friday CLOSED
Saturday 10:00 am– 1:00pm
Sunday CLOSED

Inquiries: 320-584-8151



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- Beef Stew
- Canned Rice a Roni
- Beef Lasagna
- Gift Cards to fill bags from Walmart/ Bills/Aldis or Coborns

Drop off at City Hall

WASTE MANAGEMENT

List of Unacceptable Trash Materials

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Household or Industrial Waste
Major Appliances
Electronics
Televisions
Radios
Cell Phones
Computers
Computer Accessories
Fluorescent Light bulbs Ballasts
Hazardous Waste
Asbestos
Machinery
Tires
Compost (Use local Compost Site)
Auto Parts
Ashes or Hot Materials
(Hardware store will recycle)

Pull out Garbage and Recycling carts to curbside by 6:00 am on pick up days.

*****If you're garbage bags are overflowing the outside of your current container on a regular basis, you need to upgrade to a larger waste container. Contact City Hall to make the change. *****

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Compost Site to Close for the Season.

Stop by City Hall or the Royalton Discount Center to get your compost key. Don't wait, take advantage of the short season. Do not leave garbage that doesn't belong at Compost Site.

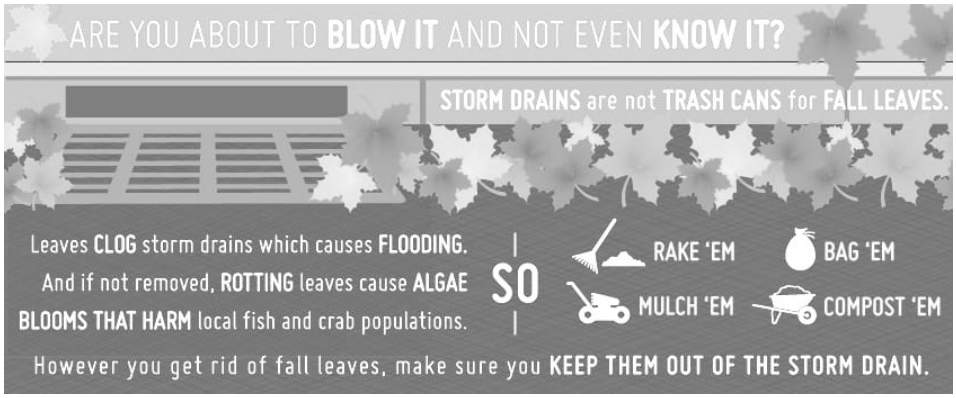
The Compost Site will close October 31.

Times may get extended depending on weather.

Stormwater Pollution

1. **Do not pile leaves or other yard waste near streams or drainage channels** where they can blow or wash into creeks.
2. **Do not blow leaves or grass clippings off your property** into streets, streams, ponds, or drainage swales.
3. **Recycle grass clippings and their nutrients on your lawn.** Use a mulching lawnmower to recycle remaining leaves into your lawn in the fall.

Compost leaves and grass clippings along with yard waste.
Please keep drains clear to help with Spring thaw.


ARE YOU ABOUT TO BLOW IT AND NOT EVEN KNOW IT?
STORM DRAINS are not TRASH CANS for FALL LEAVES.
Leaves CLOG storm drains which causes FLOODING.
And if not removed, ROTTING leaves cause ALGAE
BLOOMS THAT HARM local fish and crab populations.
SO
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However you get rid of fall leaves, make sure you KEEP THEM OUT OF THE STORM DRAIN.

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2021 Platte River Day Parade Winners

Best Decorated

1st –Rock on Trucks

2nd-Scotties Log Bar

3rd-Royalton Girl Scouts

Most Original

1st-St. Paul's Lutheran Church

2nd-Giggles Galore Daycare

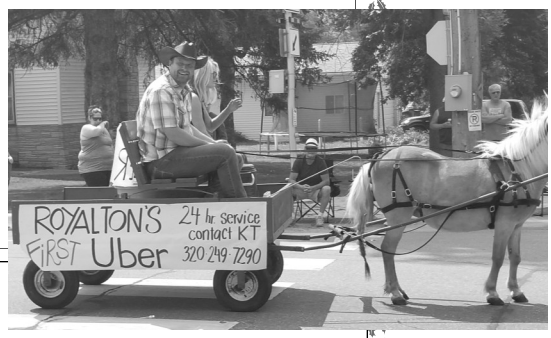
3rd-Lakes Gas

Most Humorous

1st-Royalton Lumber

2nd– Fiedler's

3rd-Royalton's 1st Uber



Platte River Day 5K

Male 17 and younger -

Guy Clemons-Virnig 23:19

Male 18 - 35 -

Anthony Rozycky 21:38

Male 36 - 50 -

Michael Roach 21:38

Male 51 and older -

Ken Poster 27:03

Female 17 and younger -

Carissa Andres 22:59

Female 18 - 35 -

Stacey Seviola 23:32

Female 36 - 50 -

Leah Walberg 26:20

Female 51 and older -

Jacki Devine 23:10

Christmas on the Platte

December 4, 2021

After surviving the hottest of hot days for along time and wondering if we will ever have rain, it is raining today. In November of 1988, parts of Minnesota experience 2 winter/blizzard storms, lets hope we don't get that because we need to celebrate. In 2020, a group of friends got together to put up the lights and decorations in Memorial Park. The park was lit the day after Thanksgiving and was shut off on Epiphany. However, for a few weeks, the City experienced some vandalism in the park in which lights were turned off and decorations were thrown into the ditches. Let's hope that doesn't happen again this year. It takes a lot of time and energy to set up the park.

Christmas on the Platte is set for **December 4, 2021 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** this year. With a year off, we are looking for new ideas and more help to get the center of town decked out for the Holidays. If you have ideas or would like to help in any way, please email clerk@royaltonmn.com. We would like to do the $50.00 a Christmas tree decorating contest again. Deadline will be November 15, 2021. Please call or email if you are interested in the fun.

Let's bring Christmas joy to the park with laughter of the little kids and the sparkles in their eyes, because it just isn't the same without them.

2021 Platte River Day Review by Russ Gerads

On behalf of the Royalton Lions, I would like to thank everyone who made the **26th Platte River Day** an overwhelming success! The beautiful summer day allowed us the opportunity to entertain the community with the Fabulous Armadillos and raise money for the area. The response from the day has been so positive, we are hoping to bring back the Fabulous Armadillos in 2022!

Platte River Day is the largest fundraiser for the Royalton Lions, but this event also helps other deserving groups raise funds for their yearly activities, including the Royalton FFA, Royalton Track and Field team, Royalton Cub Scouts, and Royalton Boy Scouts.

Thank you to the many businesses and individuals who donated to Platte River Day. Without your help, Platte River Day would not be successful. We are lucky to be living in an area that has many community minded people.

We are supported by the City of Royalton. Mayor Andrea Lauer and Leah Walberg answer and forward questions from the community and help create flyers for the big day. Danny McDougall, Tina Harrington, and Brian Gottwalt work daily to keep the streets and Royalton clean and functioning well. Police Chief Lindsey Bruyere and Officer Katie Wild along with the Morrison County Sheriff's Department for monitoring the crowd and keep things orderly and safe throughout the day.

I'm honored to be a part of a 45+ member strong Lions club. During Platte River Day, we have nearly 100% participation from our membership. Thank you to the Activity Chairpersons (Parade, Auction, Food, Beer, Minnow and Duck Races) without your individual efforts Platte River Day wouldn't be a success. Thank you to the families and wives of our membership who are ways willing to give up time to help during throughout the day. These individuals are vital to Royalton and Platte River Day!

The 27th Platte River Day will again include classic Platte River Day events like the parade, auction, kids' games, egg toss and hopefully the ***Fabulous Armadillos.*** We are always looking to add new activities. Anyone with ideas or wanting more information contact Russ Gerads, Platte River Day Chairman at 320-290-7899 or rcgerads@midco.net.

2021 Platte River Day Duck Races

Contact Doug, 320-584-5957 if you haven't gotten your Parade Awards and Duck Winner Checks.

1st Place: Cheryl Roberts

2nd Place: Marne Czech

3rd-8th Place:

- **Kaitlin Beam**
- **Jordan Pesta**
- **Gary Borash**
- **Ray Breth**
- **LuAnn Schraut-Deppa**
- **Emma Wenner**

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Jessica Deas

Eyeglass Recycling

Throughout the year, Lions, Leos and other volunteers collect used eyeglasses and deliver them to regional Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers (LERCs). LERC volunteers clean, sort by prescription strength and package the glasses. Recycled glasses are distributed to people in need in low and middle income communities where they will have the greatest impact.

You can drop off your usable eyewear (without the cases) at **Royalton City Hall** and **Pine Country Bank** in **Royalton**. The Royalton Lions would like to thank everyone who has donated in the past to this very worthy cause.

Fall Fun on the Farm!

A few miles north of Royalton on Imperial Rd, is **Triple S Pumpkins.** For 6 weeks every fall, the Stish and Gerads families of Royalton host guests from Central MN. Pumpkins, squash, display items and "fall fun" are all on the agenda. Fall fun includes:

- **pick your own pumpkins,**
- **corn walk,**
- **walks in the woods,**
- **a swing trail,**
- **bale slides,**
- **hay tunnels and piles for climbing.**
- **A petting zoo with pigs, lambs, goats, bunnies and poultry allow guests to get up close and personal with their favorite farm animals. The beef cows entertain kids of all ages with their large appetite for apples!**
- **It's also a great place for family pictures!**

Dave and Polly Stish have owned the farm since 1978. Triple S was a pick-your-own strawberry destination until 2010 when the Stish's transitioned to pumpkins and fall fun. Each year the farm adds a new feature or more produce options. This year Triple S Pumpkins sold sweet corn and hope to next year as well. They are also expanding the Snack Shack and will serve hot dogs, snacks and drinks during pumpkin season.

Throughout the growing season, Triple S Pumpkins relies on the help of friends, family and employees to help with planting, watering, weeding, and harvesting. The hard work goes into high gear for 6 weeks each fall when guests arrive for fall fun on the farm.

The farm is open to the public for six weekends beginning **Saturday September 18th-Sunday October 24 from 10am-6pm.** They will also be open for private group tours by appointment on Wednesday and Friday evenings during the season. Week days are open to groups by appointment only. For more information contact Carla at 320-360-6490.

For more information you can Google Triples S Pumpkins, Royalton and visit their Facebook page, blogspot, or MN Grown advertisement. Or call, 320-584-8159.

October 3-9, 2021 is Fire Prevention Week

There will NOT be a Royalton Fire & Rescue Open House this year. But the members of this team would like to remind everyone about the importance of Fire Safety in and around the home, school and work.

Make the first Saturday of each month "Smoke Alarm Saturday"!

A working smoke alarm will clue you in that there is a fire and you need to escape. Fire moves fast. You and your family could have only minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds.

- Smoke alarms should be installed in every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Test all of your smoke alarms by pushing the test button. If it makes a loud beep, beep, beep sound, you know it's working. If there is no sound or the sound is low, it's time to replace the battery. If the smoke alarm is older than 10 years old, you need to replace the whole unit.
- If your smoke alarm makes a "chirp," that means it needs a new battery. Change the battery right away.
- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the alarm and what to do when it sounds.

REMEMBER:

When You Hear a Beep, Get On Your Feet! Get out and stay out. Call 9-1-1 from your outside meeting place.

Hear a Chirp, Make a Change! A chirping alarm needs attention. Replace the batteries or the entire alarm if it is older than 10 years old. If you don't remember how old it is, replace it.